

Lectotypes of one Subspecies and Two Aberrations of British Geometridae

By E. A. COCKAYNE, D.M., F.R.C.P.

Sterrrha ochrata Scopoli ssp. *cantiata* Prout.

I have selected a specimen labelled "Deal, 11.vii.1908. L. B. Prout" as the lectotype.

Ectropis consonaria Hübner ab. *nigra* Banks.

I have selected a male labelled "Kent, bred 1904. E. Goodwin" as the lectotype. I wrote to the curator of the Maidstone Museum and was informed that the type is not in the Goodwin coll. No type was marked in the Banks coll.

Cleora rhomboidaria Schiffermüller ab. *nigra* Adkin.

The melanic form of this species first found in England at Norwich and later in N. Kent is usually referred to as ab. *rebeli* Aigner-Abafi. Aigner's original description in Hungarian (*Rovart. Lap.*, 1905, 12: 152) and published by him again in German (*Ent. Z.*, 1906, 19: 209) says that *rebeli* is rust-black with a zigzag white subterminal line. In all the British specimens I have seen the subterminal line is absent or consists of a series of pale yellow interneural loops, but as a rule the basal and median areas are bordered by more definite pale yellow lines, and in the most distinctly marked yellow may invade the median area itself.

Aigner's description agrees with one of the melanic forms of *C. repandata* and I think he was describing a parallel form of *rhomboidaria*, genetically distinct from the British, French, and Austrian melanic forms. This was named ab. *nigra* Adkin (*Proc. S. Lond. ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 1908-1909, 85, published in 1909). *Nigerrima* Moreau (*Bull. Soc. ent. Fr.*, 1916, 188, Pl. i) is a synonym. Lenek (*Nachrblatt Oesterr. u. Schweiz. ent.*, 1951, 3: 122) has subdivided *nigra*, calling the completely black form *orcus* and the one most variegated with yellow *exquisita*, but the melanism in all is determined by the same main gene. *Rebeli* has been used by British entomologists for many years and both H. B. Williams and E. B. Ford writing on the genetics do so. In Seitz a specimen of *nigra* is figured as *rebeli* and the description is not Aigner's but is based on a *nigra*. Adkin did not mark his type and I am making a female labelled "Dartford, 12.viii.1908" the lectotype of ab. *nigra*. There are only two specimens in his collection which by their labels could be those Adkin had before him when he gave the name. He bred large numbers later and published the results of his breeding experiments (*Proc. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 1915, cxxii), which proved that the form is dominant and that the heterozygote and the homozygote are indistinguishable.

A Subspecies of *Plusia gamma* Linnaeus

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In 1899 I spent the 27th August at Sheerness, where I found ten larvae of *Plusia gamma* L. on *Atriplex*, which was growing luxuriantly along the shore. All had a black stripe on each side of the head, and